

Commander Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW)



PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE CNRSW REGIONAL SIGHT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5100.23 Series
(b) CNRSWINST 5100.11 Series

1. Program Administration. In accordance with reference (a) the OPNAV Instruction 5100.23 Series, Navy Occupational Safety and Health (**NAVOSH**) Program Manual, all employees who are designated as working in a eye hazard area must be enrolled in the Sight Conservation Program. Personnel are enrolled in this program through Navy Region Southwest Safety Office (Code N221) workplace hazard assessment and the NAVMEDCLINIC Industrial Hygienist annual workplace inspection.

If there are any questions or if our office can be of any assistance to you, please contact your local Region Southwest Site Safety Office.

2. Purpose. In accordance with reference (b), this section establishes the requirements and responsibilities for the sight conservation program with the basic objective of preventing eye injuries caused by eye-hazard operations. The Regional Safety Office Sight Conservation Program includes the following elements:

- a. Determination and evaluation of eye-hazard areas, processes and occupations
- b. Operation of an employee vision screening program
- c. An effective equipment maintenance program

d. Procedures for the use and application of temporary eyewear

e. A comprehensive training and education program

f. Effective program enforcement procedures

3. Policy. All personnel who work in eye-hazard areas or operations, and all visitors entering these eye-hazard areas, shall be provided adequate eye protection equipment at government expense by each customer activity.

4. Scope. This section shall apply to all civilian and military personnel and visitors in the vicinity of eye-hazard operations.

5. Program Requirements.

a. Eye Hazardous Operations. Personnel performing the following eye-hazard operations and personnel within the working area of these eye-hazard areas or operations shall wear the appropriate approved eye protection equipment:

(1) Welding, brazing or soldering.

(2) Use of lathes, air hammers, drill presses, power saws, sanders and operation of any other equipment or tool that cuts, grinds or forms wood, metal, plastic or concrete.

(3) Fastening operations such as nailing, riveting and heavy duty stapling.

(4) Use of compressed air for cleaning when reduced to less than 30 PSI, and with effective chip guarding and personal protective equipment (Not a recommended cleaning method).

(5) Handling containers or working with corrosive liquids, cleaning solvents or powdered materials.

(6) Installing or removing steel banding (strapping).

(7) Weight testing of slings, cranes or similar equipment.

(8) Paint removal operations using chemical or mechanical methods.

(9) Using wire cutters or bolt cutters.

(10) Working on or near batteries.

(11) Any other known eye-hazard operation not mentioned above.

b. Posting of Eye-Hazard Areas. All areas designated as eye hazardous shall be posted with the appropriate warning sign. Eye-hazard warning signs shall be located at all entrances to the designated area, if practical.

c. Emergency Eyewash Equipment. Emergency eyewash units meeting the requirements of ANSI-Z358.1, (latest revision) shall be provided in all areas where the eyes of any employee may be exposed to corrosive materials.

(1) All emergency eyewash locations shall be identified with a highly visible sign.

(2) Each emergency eyewash unit shall be easily accessible to personnel.

(3) Plumbed eyewash units shall be activated weekly, for a minimum of 3 minutes, to flush the line and to verify proper operation.

(4) A record, log or tag shall be used to document weekly inspections of eyewash units.

(5) Pressurized and non-pressurized self-contained eye wash units shall be serviced quarterly or per the manufacture's recommendations, whichever is less. Quarterly maintenance shall include cleaning of the unit, replacement of water, and checking for proper operation. A quarterly record should be maintained to document inspections.

(6) Activities shall only use self-contained eyewash units on a temporary basis until permanent emergency eyewash facilities are installed or at remote locations where water is not readily available. Activities shall not use personal eyewash units.

Note: Personnel wearing contact lenses shall not be assigned duties that involve handling of caustics, acids, toxic chemicals or dust. In general, the use of contact lenses in an industrial environment should be discouraged.

d. Visitors. Suitable eye protection devices shall be available at entry to shop locations for visitors. Personnel escorting visitors through eye-hazard areas shall be responsible for ensuring that the visitors wear the approved eye protection equipment. These common-use devices shall be kept clean and sanitary.

e. First Aid Measures. Chemical burns of the eye require immediate flushing of the eye for at least 15 minutes with potable water. Attempts should not be made to remove a particle lodged in the eye, or to wash any eye that has been cut in any way. A clean dressing can be placed lightly over the eye until the victim receives medical help. Cold compresses should be applied to a bruised eye.

f. Types of Protective Eyewear. The following is a short description of the various types of protective eyewear:

(1) Safety Glasses / Spectacles. Safety glasses are to be worn in those areas where there is a possibility of flying objects, or particles entering the eye. Those spectacles with suitable filter lenses are permitted for use with gas welding operations on light work or for inspections. Spectacle-type goggles are made both with and without metal side-shields and may have either a rigid nonadjustable or adjustable metallic bridge.

(2) Chemical Goggles. Chemical goggles provide the eyes and eye area with protection from liquids, splashes, mists, vapors and spray. Goggles may consist of a flexible frame or a rigid frame with a separate, cushioned fitting surface, and are held in place with a supporting band. Chemical goggles with ventilation must be splash resistant.

(3) Welding Goggles. Welding goggles provide protection against glare and injurious radiation, as well as from flying objects, chips, and metal splashes. Eyecup-type goggles are designed to be worn alone, while cover-type goggles are designed to fit over corrective spectacles. The lens filter of welding goggles is shaded to protect the eyes from ultraviolet, infrared, and visible rays generated by the work operations.

(4) Chipping Goggles. Chipping goggles protect the eyes from relatively large flying objects generated by such operations as chipping, lathing, grinding, and chiseling.

Eyecup-type goggles may be worn alone, or cover-type goggles may be fitted over corrective spectacles.

(5) Welding Helmets. Welding helmets are made up of a bowl-shaped or modified bowl-shaped device equipped with a Shade 14 or greater filter. These helmets are designed for use during various kinds of arc welding and heavy gas cutting and provide the welder's eyes, face, ears, and neck with protection against intense radiation and weld spatter.

(6) Face Shields. Face shields provide protection to the face and neck from flying particles, liquids, or sprays. Face shields alone do not provide adequate protection against these hazards and must be worn with protective eyewear.

g. Maintenance of Protective Eyewear. Personal protective eyewear shall be maintained in a clean and fully operational condition. The eyewear furnished under the sight conservation program is the property of the Department of the Navy and shall be repaired or replaced if damaged in the course of employment. Damage to the protective eyewear shall be reported to the employee's supervisor.

h. Temporary Protective Eyewear. Planos, goggles or faceshields shall be provided to employees while awaiting delivery of corrective-protective eyewear.

i. Corrective Protective Eyewear. The attending Medical Clinic and the employee's supervisor must approve procurement of prescription safety eyewear. All corrective protective eyewear must meet ANSI Standard Z-87.1.

6. Responsibilities:

a. Supervisors shall:

(1) Ensure that all personnel (including visitors) exposed to eye hazards wear an approved eye protection device.

(2) Ensure that all protective eyewear is maintained in a clean and fully operational condition.

(3) Ensure personnel are properly trained, know the location of the nearest eyewash unit and are instructed in the proper operation of that eyewash unit.

(4) Notify your local Site Safety Office of any new eye-hazard operations.

(5) Schedule and ensure personnel attend initial sight conservation training.

(6) Provide a current roster of personnel enrolled into the Sight Conservation program to the site safety office when requested.

(7) Review and sign requests for corrective-protective eyewear and insure funding approval prior to purchasing.

(8) Ensure appropriate disciplinary action is taken if eyewear has been willfully damaged, altered or lost through negligence, or if personnel are not responding to the provisions of the program.

b. Personnel shall.

(1) Wear the required protective eyewear when entering or working in eye-hazard areas or engaged in eye-hazard operations.

(2) Know the location of the nearest eyewash unit and how to operate the unit.

(3) Maintain personal protective eyewear in a clean and fully operational condition.

(4) Attend required sight conservation training, when scheduled.

c. Site Safety Office shall.

(1) Conduct a survey of all work areas, processes, and occupations to determine which have eye-hazards and which personnel require eye protection and whether other personnel in the workplace vicinity also require eye protection equipment.

(2) Identified requirements of areas, processes, and occupations that require eye protection shall be documented as part of the Workplace Hazard Assessment.

(3) Recommend the type of protective equipment to be used, the personnel affected and the nature of signs and warning

posters needed to alert workers of the presence of an eye-hazard area.

(4) Re-evaluate previously designated eye-hazard areas after new processes are adopted, or after modifications have been made to existing processes. Annual workplace inspections and re-evaluations shall be performed to determine continuing need for eye protection.

(5) Retain and review eye injury records as an additional check on the identification of areas, processes and occupations where potential eye hazards may exist.

(6) Provide sight conservation training and education for personnel.

(7) Request a current roster of personnel enrolled into the Sight Conservation program from the supervisor on a semi-annual basis.

SIGHT CONSERVATION FLOWCHART

